

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     TAIPEI 08449 230948Z  
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 INR-05 PRS-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00  
L-01 ACDA-10 MC-01 CIAE-00 NEA-07 SP-02 /056 W  
----- 103961 /13/12

R 230927Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2086  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
SECDEF WASHDC//DSAA//  
JCS WASHDC  
CHMAAG TAIPEI TW  
COMUSTDC TAIPEI TW  
CNO WASHDC

S E C R E T TAIPEI 8449

LIMDIS

NOFORN

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, TW  
SUBJECT: HARPOON FOR REPUBLIC OF CHINA

1. WHILE IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE  
TO DEFER THE DECISION ON THE HARPOON FOR ROC, THE FOLLOWING  
INFORMATION IS PROVIDED SO THAT IT WILL BE AVAILABLE IF AND  
WHEN THAT DECISION IS RECONSIDERED.

2. ROC HAS REQUESTED AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE THE HARPOON FOR  
INSTALLATION ON 10 DESTROYERS. PURCHASE REQUEST INCLUDES  
10 FIRE CONTROL SYSTEMS, 20 LAUNCHERS (4 MISSILES PER  
LAUNCHER), 120 HARPOON MISSILES AND THE NECESSARY SUPPORT  
PACKAGE. THE COUNTRY TEAM CONCURS IN THIS REQUEST.

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SECRET

PAGE 02     TAIPEI 08449 230948Z

3. ROC PLANS TO CONTINUE WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THE  
GABRIEL II ON THREE FRAM DD'S PLUS THE PSMM CRAFT NOW BEING  
CONSTRUCTED AT TACOMABOAT COMPANY AND CHINA SHIP BUILDING.  
AT PRESENT, ONLY GABRIEL EXERCISE MISSILES ARE ON-ISLAND BUT  
THE FIRST GABRIEL II WAR SHOT IS EXPECTED TO BE DELIVERED THIS

MONTH. (NOTE: ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM U.S. MILITARY SOURCES, THE ROC DOES NOT HAVE A CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL ON THE GABRIEL MISSILE.)

4. BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, THE GABRIEL II IS AT A DISADVANTAGE COMPARED TO THE STYX MISSILE WITH WHICH OVER 100 PRC SHIPS ARE ARMED. THE STYX MISSILE HAS A SMALL RANGE ADVANTAGE, HAS A CONSIDERABLY LARGER WARHEAD AND DOES NOT REQUIRE GUIDANCE FROM THE LAUNCH SHIP THROUGHOUT ITS TRAJECTORY AS DOES THE GABRIEL II.

5. ROC IS ALSO NOW CONSIDERING ACQUISITION OF A SMALL FAST PATROL BOAT, DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT THE PSMM, WHICH THEY DESIRE TO ARM WITH A SHIP-TO-SHIP MISSILE. IN REGARD TO NEW ACQUISITION AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF PATROL BOATS AND THE PSMM, A DEFERRAL OF THE DECISION ON HARPOON HAS MUCH THE SAME EFFECT AS A DENIAL AS IT FORCES THE ROC TO SEEK OTHER ALTERNATIVES AND MAKE CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR OTHER WEAPON SYSTEMS. THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR PLACING A SHIP-TO-SHIP MISSILE SYSTEM ABOARD A SHIP. IT IS NOT THE TYPE SYSTEM WHICH CAN BE DELIVERED OFF THE SHELF AND BE EMPLOYED SHORTLY AFTER A DECISION TO RELEASE IS MADE.

6. AN EFFECTIVE MISSILE SYSTEM TO COUNTER THE STYX OF THE PRC CONTINUES TO BE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PROBLEM FOR THE ROC. THE MISSILE GAP WHICH THEY PERCEIVE EXISTS BETWEEN THE ROC AND PRC HAS AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE MORALE OF THE CHINESE NAVY AND IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. RELEASE OF THE HARPOON WOULD DO MUCH TO REMEDY THIS PROBLEM.

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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 08449 230948Z

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